

Docket No. 0630-1398P

Appl. No.: 10/043,205

Art Unit: 1746

Amendment dated January 8, 2004

Reply to Office Action of October 8, 2003

Page 9 of 13

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough consideration provided in the present application. Claims 1-6 and 8-20 are currently pending in the instant application. Claims 1, 4, 8 and 9 have been amended. Claims 11-20 have been withdrawn from further consideration by the Examiner as being drawn to a non-elected species. Claim 7 has been cancelled. Claims 1 and 11 are independent. Reconsideration of the present application is earnestly solicited.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. Specifically, the subject matter of claims 7-10 has been indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent format. Without conceding the propriety of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to timely advance the prosecution of the present application, Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the allowable features of cancelled claim 7. In light of the foregoing amendments to claim 1, and as indicated by the Examiner in the Office Action, Applicants submit that claims 1-6 and 8-10 should be allowed. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the present application should be passed to Issue.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 4 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as allegedly being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants submit that since this subject matter was included in the original written description, e.g., in the original claims, a new matter rejection as suggested by the Examiner would be improper. However, without conceding the propriety of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to timely advance the prosecution of the present application, Applicants have amended claim 4 as suggested by the Examiner.

Specifically, amended claim 4 clearly recites a "dehumidification device is positioned at a side of the heater in the air flowing direction," e.g., as shown and described in connection with FIGs. 3 and 5 of the present application.

In light of the foregoing amendments to the claims, Applicants respectfully submit that these rejections have been obviated and/or rendered moot. Applicants respectfully submit that the foregoing amendments have been made to merely clarify the claimed invention. Applicants submit that the requested changes do not appear to either raise a substantial question of the patentability of the claimed invention nor do they narrow the scope of the claimed invention.

Docket No. 0630-1398P

Appl. No.: 10/043,205

Art Unit: 1746

Amendment dated January 8, 2004

Reply to Office Action of October 8, 2003

Page 11 of 13

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2 and 4-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0015082 in view of Minayoshi et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0015082), and further in view of Goldberg (U.S. Patent No. 4,603,489). Claims 1 and 3-5 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Obata et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,029,458) in view of Goldberg (U.S. Patent No. 4,603,489). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

In light of the foregoing amendments to the claims, Applicants respectfully submit that these rejections have been obviated and/or rendered moot. However, Applicants respectfully submit that the foregoing amendments have been made to merely clarify the claimed invention for the benefit of the Examiner.

Without conceding the propriety of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to timely advance the prosecution of the present application, Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the allowable features of cancelled claim 7. In light of the foregoing amendments to claim 1, and as indicated by the Examiner in the Office Action, Applicants submit that claims 1-6 and 8-10 should be allowed. Accordingly, the present application should be passed to Issue.

Docket No. 0630-1398P

Appl. No.: 10/043,205

Art Unit: 1746

Amendment dated January 8, 2004

Reply to Office Action of October 8, 2003

Page 12 of 13

As to the dependent claims, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are allowable due to their dependence upon an allowable independent claim, as well as for additional limitations provided by these claims.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but rather to merely show the state-of-the-art, no further comments are necessary with respect thereto.

It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Matthew T. Shanley, Registration No. 47,074 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

Docket No. 0630-1398P

Appl. No.: 10/043,205

Art Unit: 1746

Amendment dated January 8, 2004

Reply to Office Action of October 8, 2003

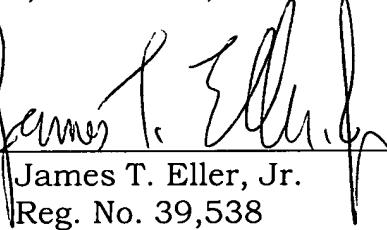
Page 13 of 13

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By


James T. Eller, Jr.
Reg. No. 39,538

JTE/MTS/cl

P. O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000